

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00113 100812Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 INSE-00 H-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 /042 W

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R 100615Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5029

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

US MISSION USNATO 2332

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0113

E.O. 11652: GDS

ZTAGS: SREF, NO

SUBJ: INDOCHINA REFUGEES--APPROACHES TO NATO CAPITALS

REF (A) 77 STATE 307048 (NOTAL), (B) 77 STATE 296511 (NOTAL.

(C) 77 OSLO 3680 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PAPER ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEE SITUATION
(REF B) ON JAN 6 WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF UN OFFICE BJORN UTHEIM.
MFA HAD ALREADY RECEIVED PAPER AND HAD IT UNDER CONSIDERATION
WITHIN MINISTRY.

2. RE PARA F OF PAPER, UTHEIM REFERRED TO FORMIN FRYDENLUND'S
STATEMENT TO THE STORTING ON INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN LATE
DECEMBER. FORMIN REITERATED NORWEGIAN POLICY, NAMELY THAT
NORWEGIAN SHIPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO
ASSIST REFUGEE BOATS, INCLUDING TAKING REFUGEES ON BOARD AND
DELIVERING THEM TO PORT OF TEMPORARY REFUGE. NORWEGIAN CAPTAINS
THEN TURN REFUGEES OVER TO THE LOCAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY OR
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CONSULATE WHICH OFFERS RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE. ASSISTANCE
INCLUDES OFFER TO SETTLE IN NORWAY, UNLIMITED BY QUOTA, OR
HELP IN REACHING UNHCR OR OTHER REFUGEE INTERNMENT CENTER.

3. FORMIN'S STATEMENT ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY WILL
STEP UP ITS SUPPORT OF REFUGEE CENTERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
THROUGH NORAD, NORWEGIAN AID.

4. UTHEIM SAID THAT NORWAY HAS NO PLANS TO ESTABLISH A QUOTA SYSTEM, AT LEAST NOT AT THIS TIME. HE NOTED THAT NORWAY HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT ALL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO WISH TO COME HERE WITHOUT LIMIT.

5. NORWAY HAS RECEIVED SOME 250 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO DATE, ACCORDING TO THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL IS PRESENTLY PREPARING TO RECEIVE MOST OF ABOUT 80 REFUGEES PICKED UP BY NORWEGIAN SHIPS WHO ARE BEING PROCESSED IN MANILA AND HONG KONG. THE COUNCIL ALSO INDICATED THAT THE NEW ARRIVALS AND THE REFUGEES ALREADY SETTLED IN NORWAY HAVE PLACED CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON THE LIMITED RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES.

6. COMMENT: GON CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, BUT BELIEVES THAT ITS PRESENT POLICY IS ABOUT AS FAR AS IT CAN GO AT THIS POINT. IN VIEW OF THE DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, IMMIGRATION IS NOT A FAVORITE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL CONVERSATION AT THIS TIME. WE THEREFORE EXPECT THAT THE NORWEGIAN RESPONSE TO THE US PAPER AT NATO WILL REFLECT PRESENT GON POLICY OUTLINED ABOVE.

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